

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC General Military Information

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 10 March to 14 April 1954

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED

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633977

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At about 7 p.m. on 11 April 1954, the following troop train passed through Gotha railroad station toward Erfurt from the direction of Ohrdruf. 8 SS-type cars with 3/85 tanks [redacted] 1 salvage tank, 5 flatcars with 10 trucks [redacted] and 8 to 10 boxcars with about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. 1

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2. The following column passed through Weimar toward Ettersberg from the direction of the autobahn on 31 March; radio trucks [redacted] with generators and trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] carrying a total of about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Some of the trucks carried equipment. 2

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3. Between 10 March and 3 April, a large-scale exercise involving jet aircraft was observed in the Kahla-Poessneck-Reinstaedter Grund-Magdalae area. In the afternoon on 10 March, artillery units including heavy guns and rocket launchers were unloaded in Goeschwitz. They subsequently moved toward Kahla-Reinstaedter Grund. At about 5:30 p.m. on 11 March, a shipment of 6 SP guns and about 40 trucks with troops carrying full pack was observed in Jena, coming from the direction of Kahla. At about 11 a.m. on 16 March, a troop train with 3 tanks and a large number of trucks was seen en route toward Jena from the direction of Kahla. The train was followed by another consisting of boxcars with troops. On the morning of 30 March, 6 T-34 tanks and about 20 trucks [redacted] moved toward Jena from the direction of Gera. In the afternoon of the same day, 8 JS-3 tanks and 12 trucks [redacted] drove toward Jena-Ost from the direction of Buerzel. The column later returned to Buerzel from Jena-Ost. There was intensive truck traffic in Jena on 31 March. 2

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About 16 trucks entered Jena from the direction of Kahla at about 11 a.m. [redacted] Reinstaedter Grund was blocked by many tanks and trucks on 3 April. Heavy damage was done to the fields. The fruit trees along the roads were crushed. During the night of 2 April, tanks and trucks drove toward Jena from the direction of Grossbockedra, Sulze, Retha, and Lobeda. Intensive flying activity of jet aircraft was observed over the training area during the exercises. Flying activity decreased after 2 April. 2

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4. [redacted] on 31 March, a column, presumably a headquarters, including [redacted]

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Dessau from the direction of Rosslau.] drove toward

5. At about 2 p.m. on 31 March, a column of about 35 to 40 trucks and 10 to 15 tank trucks came from the direction of Koenigsbrueck and proceeded via Lampertswalde (N 52/A 11), Schoenborn, and Weissig on the Rahn River. Most of the trucks carried 10 to 12 men, some carried luggage. Residents stated that columns have moved in this direction []

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25X1 1. [] Comment. Presumably, a tank unit of the 20th Gds Mech Div which returned from Ohrdruf.

25X1 2. [] Comment. So far as they have been observed about 30 March, the troop movements [] were connected with an exercise of the 21st Gds Mech Div, reinforced by units of the 76th Arty Brig (US), which started in the area north and northwest of Naumburg on 28 and 29 March and extended toward Canburg-Jena. An enemy group which []

25X1 2. [] was apparently represented by elements of the 57th Gds Mts Rifle Div, was presumably employed from the area south of Jena and Weimar against the reinforced 21st Gds Mech Div. []

25X1 2. [] The other movements observed after 10 March are not believed to have been linked with this exercise.

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25X1 4. [] Comment. These movements are believed to have been linked with an exercise of the reinforced 8th Gds Mech Div held in the Koenigsbrueck-Zeithain area in late March.

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